

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6667**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 320

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 28, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Office of the Child Advocate.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Lanane

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill establishes: (1) the Office of the Child Advocate; and (2) the duties of the Child Advocate, which include taking all possible action to ensure the legal, civil, and special rights of children. The bill requires the Governor to appoint the Child Advocate. The bill also requires the Child Advocate to submit an annual report.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2012.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This bill creates the Office of the Child Advocate under the Governor's purview. The bill requires the Governor to appoint one Child Advocate to fill the office. The legislation also describes the responsibilities of the Child Advocate.

Under the bill, the Child Advocate is entitled to compensation set by the Governor and approved by the State Budget Agency (SBA). Actual salary will depend on the qualifications of the Child Advocate, the salary set by the Governor, and what SBA approves. This bill will impact state expenditures to provide salary, benefits, and other indirect costs to the Child Advocate.

The Child Advocate could be appointed from within the current Governor's staff, resulting in no fiscal impact. However, the position could be filled with a new hire. If this occurs, state expenditures will increase. The average salary paid in the Office of the Governor is approximately \$46,100, with a range of \$20,000 to \$105,000. An Internet job database reveals the average salary of a child advocate to be \$47,000 for the state of Indiana.

State benefits provided in addition to salary include life insurance, Social Security, contributions to the

Public Employee's Retirement Fund, disability insurance, and health insurance. For FY 2012, salary-based benefits are calculated at 21.13% of a full-time employee's salary (for an estimated \$57,000 total). Each state agency contributes a flat amount per employee for health, dental, and vision insurance totaling \$5,150 for single coverage or \$14,560 for family coverage.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Office of the Governor, State Budget Agency.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** State Staffing Report; Christy Tittle, State Personnel Department, <http://www.indeed.com/salary/q-Child-Advocate-l-Indiana.html>

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